WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

5   1. A design data processing method of processing hierarchically configured design data, comprising the steps of:

    a) obtaining first design data of a
10   predetermined rank of hierarchy;

    b) obtaining second design data of a rank of hierarchy higher than the predetermined rank of hierarchy; and

    c) combining the second design data to the
15   first design data.

20   2. A design data processing method of processing design data configured of a plurality of blocks, comprising the steps of:

    a) obtaining first design data of a block of the plurality of block of a predetermined rank of
25   hierarchy;

    b) obtaining second design data of a rank of hierarchy lower than the predetermined rank of hierarchy; and

    c) displaying a peripheral portion of the
30   block of the second design data, and setting the peripheral portion to a wiring inhibition region.

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    3. A design data processing method of processing design data of wiring, comprising the

step of producing the design data such that a metal
density of the wiring is not more than a
predetermined value, said step comprising the step
of using design data in which a wire is previously
5   split into a plurality of wires so that the metal
density is not more than the predetermined value.

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       4.   A design data processing method of
processing design data in which a layout is made as
a result of blocks are combined, comprising the
15   following steps of:
       a) referring to a block layout of a
predetermined block of a rank of hierarchy lower
than a rank of hierarchy including said
predetermined block;
20   b) detecting a region in which no block is
disposed yet from the block layout of the lower rank
referred to in the step a); and
       c) setting the not-yet-disposed region
detected in the step b) to such a region that
25   another block can be disposed there.

30   5.   A computer readable recording medium
storing a software program for processing
hierarchically configured design data and causing a
computer to execute the following steps of:
       a) obtaining first design data of a
35   predetermined rank of hierarchy;
       b) obtaining second design data of a rank
of hierarchy higher than the predetermined rank of

hierarchy; and

        c) combining the second design data to the first design data.

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        6. A computer readable recording medium storing a software program for processing design

10   data configured of a plurality of blocks and causing a computer to execute the following steps of:

        a) obtaining first design data of a block of the plurality of block of a predetermined rank of hierarchy;

15   b) obtaining second design data of a rank of hierarchy lower than the predetermined rank of hierarchy; and

        c) displaying a peripheral portion of the block of the second design data, and setting the

20   peripheral portion to a wiring inhibition region.

25   7. A computer readable recording medium storing a software program for processing design data of wiring and causing a computer to execute the step of producing the design data such that a metal density of the wiring is not more than a

30   predetermined value, said step comprising the step of using design data in which a wire is previously split into a plurality of wires so that the metal density is not more than the predetermined value.

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8. A computer readable recording medium
storing a software program for processing design
data in which a layout is made as a result of blocks
are combined and causing a computer to execute the
5   following steps of:
     a) referring to a block layout of a
predetermined block of a rank of hierarchy lower
than a rank of hierarchy including said
predetermined block;
10   b) detecting a region in which no block is
disposed yet from the block layout of the lower rank
referred to in the step a); and
     c) setting the not-yet-disposed region
detected in the step b) to such a region that
15   another block can be disposed there.